

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

October 5, 2001

IN RE:

**PETITION OF US LEC OF
TENNESSEE, INC. TO ENFORCE
INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT**

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**DOCKET NO.
01-00726**

ORDER APPOINTING A HEARING OFFICER ON THE MERITS

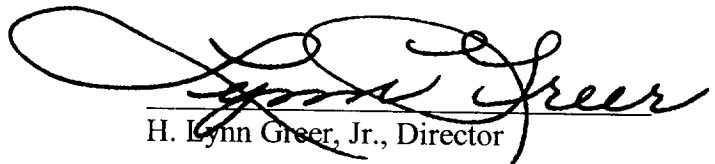
This matter came before the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Authority") at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on August 21, 2001, for appointment of a Hearing Officer to render a decision on the merits of the Petition of US LEC of Tennessee, Inc. to Enforce an Interconnection Agreement with BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth"). The Petition was filed on August 20, 2001. During the Authority Conference, a majority of the Directors voted to appoint the General Counsel or his designee to act as Hearing Officer in this matter to make findings of fact and conclusions of law and to render an initial decision on the merits of the Petition. A majority of the Directors also voted to direct BellSouth to respond to the Petition within two weeks of the date it was filed.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

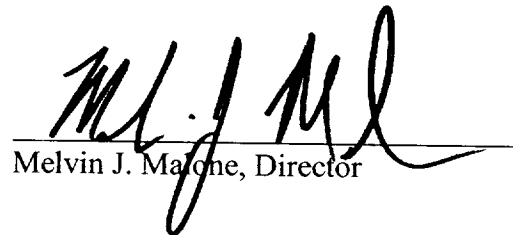
1. The General Counsel or his designee is appointed Hearing Officer in this matter to make findings of fact and conclusions of law, and to render an initial decision on the merits of the Petition.

2. BellSouth shall have until September 4, 2001 to file a response to the Petition.

Sara Kyle, Chairman

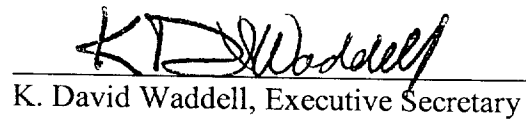


H. Lynn Greer, Jr., Director



Melvin J. Malone, Director

ATTEST:



K. David Waddell, Executive Secretary

*** Chairman Kyle did not vote in favor of the prevailing motion.